



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tetsuya KATO

Group Art Unit: 2625

Application No.: 10/827,403

Examiner: L. RODRIGUEZ

Filed: April 20, 2004

Docket No.: 119474

For: IMAGE READING APPARATUS, READING RESOLUTION CONFIRMING  
METHOD, AND IMAGE READER

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

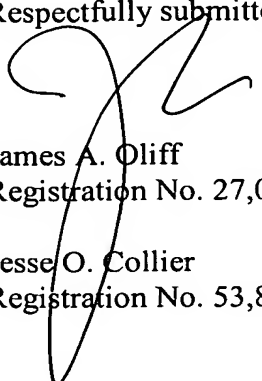
Sir:

In reply to the April 17, 2008 Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects  
Group I, claims 1-14, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-18 is sufficiently  
related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would  
encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully  
submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without  
serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an  
entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the  
merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis  
added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in  
order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by  
the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Jesse O. Collier  
Registration No. 53,839

JAO:JOC/lbg

Date: May 7, 2008

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 320850**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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